

(MARIANAS, U.S. JOINT COMMUNIQUE)

SAIPAN, DECEMBER 12 (MNS)---AT MIDPOINT IN THE STATUS NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN THE MARIANAS POLITICAL STATUS COMMISSION AND THE U.S. DELEGATION, SENATOR EDWARD DLG. PANGELINAN, CHAIRMAN OF THE MARIANAS GROUP AND AMBASSADOR FRANKLIN HAYDN WILLIAMS, PRESIDENT NIXON'S PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE TO THE MICRONESIAN STATUS NEGOTIATIONS RELEASED A JOINT STATEMENT WEDNESDAY, (DEC. 12). THE FOLLOWING IS THE COMPLETE TEXT OF THE STATEMENT:

" THE CHAIRMAN OF THE MARIANAS POLITICAL STATUS COMMISSION AND THE HEAD OF THE U.S. DELEGATION NOTED WITH SATISFACTION TODAY THAT SINCE THE MARIANAS POLITICAL STATUS NEGOTIATIONS RESUMED LAST THURSDAY STEADY AND SUBSTANTIAL PROGRESS HAS BEEN MADE. THE GOAL OF THE PRESENT TALKS IS TO EXPLORE IN MORE DETAIL SPECIFIC ISSUES ARISING UNDER EACH OF THE MAJOR AGENDA HEADINGS ON WHICH PRELIMINARY UNDERSTANDINGS WERE REACHED LAST MAY-JUNE--NAMESLY, CONSTITUTIONAL AND LEGAL ARRANGEMENTS, ECONOMICS AND FINANCE, LAND, AND TRANSITION--AND TO REACH FURTHER TENTATIVE AGREEMENT ON AS MANY OF THESE ISSUES AS TIME PERMITS.

"SINCE LAST THURSDAY THERE HAVE BEEN SEVERAL WORKING SESSIONS OF THE FULL DELEGATIONS AND OF SUBCOMMITTEES REPRESENTING THEM TO EXPLORE SOME OF THE MORE TECHNICAL ASPECTS OF THE ISSUES BEING CONSIDERED. THE TWO SIDES HAVE ARRIVED AT AGREEMENTS IN PRINCIPLE ON QUESTIONS RELATING TO THE RIGHT OF LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT, A GENERALIZED APPROACH TO THE APPLICATION OF U.S. LAWS IN THE MARIANAS, AS WELL AS CUSTOMS, EXCISE AND INCOME TAXATION. ALSO, THE U.S. AND THE MARIANAS POLITICAL STATUS COMMISSION HAVE REACHED GENERAL AGREEMENT ON THE WORDING OF A CLAUSE IN THE ULTIMATE STATUS INSTRUMENT PROVIDING THAT THE PEOPLE OF THE MARIANAS WILL BECOME U.S. CITIZENS OR U.S. NATIONALS AS THEY MAY DESIRE. THE SPECIFIC AGREEMENTS REACHED ON THESE AND THE OTHER TOPICS TO BE DISCUSSED IN THE NEGOTIATIONS WILL BE SET FORTH IN A JOINT COMMUNIQUE TO BE RELEASED AT THE CLOSE OF THIS SESSION OF THE TALKS.

" THE DELEGATIONS ARE PRESENTLY DISCUSSING THE FUNDING AND INITIATION OF A SERIES OF TRANSITIONAL STUDIES AND STEPS BY WHICH THE NORTHERN MARIANAS WILL, FOLLOWING THE SIGNING OF A STATUS AGREEMENT, PREPARE OF A NEW GOVERNMENT'S SMOOTH, ORDERLY ASSUMPTION OF RESPONSIBILITY FOR LOCAL AFFAIRS PURSUANT TO A CONSTITUTION TO BE FRAMED AND ADOPTED LOCALLY.

"THE CHAIRMEN OF THE TWO DELEGATIONS ANTICIPATE THAT LATER THIS WEEK THEIR DELEGATIONS WILL CONSIDER IN MORE SPECIFIC TERMS THAN THEY HAVE PREVIOUSLY ATTEMPTED THE FUTURE ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE NORTHERN MARIANAS AND THE UNITED STATES AND A NUMBER OF REMAINING QUESTIONS RELATING TO LAND.

"THE CHAIRMEN EMPHASIZED THAT THE PACE AND MOMENTUM OF THE TALKS TO DATE HAVE MET THEIR EXPECTATIONS. THEY NOTED THAT WHILE THE DELEGATIONS ARE EXCHANGING A GREAT DEAL OF INFORMATION ON COMPLICATED MATTERS REQUIRING MUCH STUDY, REFLECTION, AND DISCUSSION, THE NEGOTIATIONS ARE PROCEEDING EFFICIENTLY AND HARMONIOUSLY."

(COMMUNICATIONS PROGRESS)

SAIPAN, DECEMBER 12 (MNS)---TRUST TERRITORY COMMUNICATION TECHNICIANS HAVE COMPLETED THE INSTALLATION OF NEW VOICE COMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT IN THE PALAU DISTRICT CENTER OF KOROR. THE NEW EQUIPMENT WENT INTO SERVICE FOR THE FIRST TIME WEDNESDAY MORNING (DEC. 12), ACCORDING TO ELECTRICAL

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"THE VOICE QUALITY OF COMMUNICATIONS WITH PALAU SHOULD BE MUCH IMPROVED, AT LEAST TO THE LEVEL OF THE OTHER DISTRICT," WISEMAN SAID. HE NOTED THAT PALAU IS THE LAST OF THE SIX DISTRICTS TO RECEIVE THE NEW EQUIPMENT. IT IS NOW POSSIBLE TO TALK WITH ANY OF THE DISTRICTS FROM ANY OF THE OTHER DISTRICTS BY TELEPHONE SYSTEM, A DEFINITE IMPROVEMENT OVER THE SHORT WAVE RADIO SYSTEM THAT WAS IN USE EXCLUSIVELY UNTIL A FEW YEARS AGO.

WISEMAN ALSO SAID THAT CONSTRUCTION OF THE NEW COMMUNICATIONS BUILDING IN KOROR IS UNDER WAY, WITH COMPLETION EXPECTED IN ABOUT SIX MONTHS. IT WAS DECIDED TO INSTALL THE NEW VOICE COMMUNICATION AHEAD OF TIME TO GIVE THE DISTRICT THE BENEFIT OF THE IMPROVED FACILITIES.

IN ANOTHER DEVELOPMENT THAT WILL BRING THE ISLANDS OF THE TRUST TERRITORY CLOSER TOGETHER THROUGH MODERN COMMUNICATIONS, THE DIVISION SAID THIS WEEK IT WILL UNDERTAKE A SURVEY IN JANUARY OF THE FEASIBILITY, COSTS, AND EQUIPMENT NEEDED TO PROVIDE A VOICE-TELETYPE COMMUNICATIONS CIRCUIT BETWEEN THE PONAPE DISTRICT CENTER AND THE ISLAND KUSAIE. PRESENTLY KUSAIE, WITH A POPULATION OF ABOUT 5,000, MUST MAKE DO WITH A SINGLE SIDE-BAND RADIO. THEY HAVE NEITHER TELEPHONE NOR TELETYPE COMMUNICATIONS WITH THE REST OF THE TT.

(TT MANPOWER ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING)

SAIPAN, DECEMBER 12 (HNS)---MEMBERS OF THE TRUST TERRITORY MANPOWER ADVISORY COUNCIL ARE MEETING ON SAIPAN THIS WEEK TO MAKE PRE-SCHOLARSHIP SELECTIONS FOR THE 1974-75 CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA SCHOLARSHIPS, THE GOVERNMENT OF GUAM SCHOLARSHIP, AND THE TRUST TERRITORY GENERAL SCHOLARSHIPS. THE MEETING IS BEING HELD AT SAIPAN'S ROYAL TAGA HOTEL.

ACCORDING TO FELICITAS PANGELINAN, ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER FOR THE MANPOWER ADVISORY COUNCIL, COUNCIL MEMBERS WILL TRAVEL TO GUAM ON FRIDAY (DEC. 14) FOR A TWO-DAY MEETING WITH THE TRUST TERRITORY STUDENTS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF GUAM TO LISTEN TO THEIR PROBLEMS. WHILE ON GUAM, THE COUNCIL WILL PAY A COURTESY CALL ON GUAM'S GOVERNOR CARLOS G. CAMACHO. THE COUNCIL MEMBERS WILL ALSO TOUR THE MANPOWER DEVELOPMENT AND TRAINING ACT PROJECTS ON SAIPAN, VISIT FACILITIES FOR VOCATIONAL EDUCATION AT THE MARIANAS HIGH SCHOOL.

THE FINAL SELECTION OF SCHOLARSHIP STUDENTS WILL BE MADE BY HIGH COMMISSIONER EDWARD E. JOHNSTON UPON RECOMMENDATION BY DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION DAVID RAYARUII. MEMBERS OF THE ADVISORY COUNCIL ARE WILHELM RENGIL, CHAIRMAN, ALONZO IGISOMAR, VICE-CHAIRMAN, FATHER RICHARD BECKER, SECRETARY, CONGRESSMAN JOHN HEINE OF THE MARSHALLS; JOSE P. SEMAN, MARIANAS; ELIZABETH UDUI AND WILLIAM ALLEN, FROM THE HEADQUARTERS, KASIANO JOSEPH, FROM PONAPE; HILARY TACHELIOL, YAP; AND SOUCHIKI STEVENS FROM TRUK DISTRICT. IN ADDITION, FOUR DISTRICT SCHOLARSHIP COORDINATORS ARE ATTENDING THE MEETING. THEY ARE SUSANA MAFNAS, MARIANAS; CATALINO CANTERO, PONAPE; RUSSEL BURKE, YAP; AND MISAOU PETRUS, TRUK.

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TT STUDENT SERVICES COORDINATOR IGNACIO VILLANUEVA FROM HONOLULU; AND TAKEO GEORGE, UNIVERSITY OF GUAM STUDENT SERVICES COORDINATOR ARE ALSO ATTENDING THE MEETING.
(HUSTON APPOINTED LAND COMMISSIONER)

SAIPAN, DEC. 12, (MNS)---MARIANAS DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR FRANCISCO C. ADA HAS ANNOUNCED THE APPOINTMENT OF ROBERT HUSTON TO BE THE NEW SENIOR LAND COMMISSIONER FOR THE MARIANAS DISTRICT. HUSTON'S APPOINTMENT WAS EFFECTIVE DECEMBER NINTH.

THE POSITION HAS BEEN VACANT SINCE THE DEPARTURE OF JAMES B. JOHNSON EARLIER THIS YEAR TO ACCEPT ANOTHER POSITION AT THE INTERIOR DEPARTMENT IN WASHINGTON D.C.

HUSTON GRADUATED FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND WITH A BS DEGREE IN MILITARY SCIENCE IN 1960, RECEIVED HIS MASTERS DEGREE IN EDUCATION FROM STANFORD UNIVERSITY IN 1963 AND WAS EMPLOYED AT THE COUNTY OF SAN MATEO IN CALIFORNIA AS CHIEF REAL PROPERTY APPRAISER AND ASSISTANT ASSESSOR FROM 1963 TO 1972. PRIOR TO HIS PROMOTION TO SENIOR LAND COMMISSIONER, HUSTON WORKED AS LAND MANAGEMENT OFFICER ON SAIPAN SINCE SEPTEMBER OF 1972.
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